

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/837,041

Examiner

Mark Fadok

Applicant(s)

O'BRIEN ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Remanded examiner's answer dated 9/7/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 8 and 9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/12/2007
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to After-Final Remarks

The examiner has considered the Board of Appeals remand provided September 7, 2007 (reference appeal #2007-0695). The examiner has contacted the applicant's representative and has established allowable subject matter that is presented below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gero McClellan on 11/12/2007.

Cancel claims 2,3,5-7 and 10-17.

delete claims 1,4,8 and 9 and replace with the following:

1. A system for handling ecommerce requests.

comprising:

a processor,

(a) a plurality of applications, each configured to process requests in respective transformed formats, wherein each request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in respective original format and mapped to the respective transformed format, wherein each of the respective original formats are different from one another:

(b) at least one specification document containing metadata defining relationships between data of the requests in the respective original formats and data of the requests in the respective transformed formats, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each of the metadata instances defining a mapping between one of the original formats and the respective transformed format of a respective request; and

(c) a flow manager which, when executed by the processor, is configured to, for each request, perform a process utilizing the metadata to convert the request in the original format to the transformed format, wherein the process comprises:

identifying which application of the plurality of applications the metadata specifies for handling the request; invoking an access method specific to the identified application: the access method being defined by the metadata; retrieving, by the access method, a list of field elements that describe the inputs required by the identified application; for each input field element in the list. retrieving a corresponding value from the request in the original format; placing each retrieved value in a data structure having the transformed format: and invoking the identified application using an invocation method specific to the identified application and specified by the access method, whereby the application takes the data structure as input to perform the request.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the request is a purchase order and the data comprises fields of the purchase order.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the original format comprises at least one of cXML, mXML, xCBL, OCI, and ebXML.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises references to a plurality of access methods, including the invoked access method, each access method configured to define, a respective interface to at least one of the plurality of applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1,4,8 and 9 are allowable.

The following is an Examiner's statement of the reasons for allowance for independent claim 1.

The present invention is directed a system for using a flow manager that determines a specific instance that maps the request to a specific application through a process that enters the data elements to the application with respect to the metadata

instance, inter alia, "identifying which application of the plurality of applications the metadata specifies for handling the request; invoking an access method specific to the identified application: the access method being defined by the metadata; retrieving, by the access method, a list of field elements that describe the inputs required by the identified application; for each input field element in the list, retrieving a corresponding value from the request in the original format; placing each retrieved value in a data structure having the transformed format: and invoking the identified application using an invocation method specific to the identified application and specified by the access method, whereby the application takes the data structure as input to perform the request".

Discussion of most relevant art:

US Patents and PG-PUB

(i) US 6,125,391 to Meltzer et al teaches a method for converting incoming data requests to the format of the host. Meltzer, however, fails to render the above-mentioned application's limitations obvious.

Non-Patent Literature

(ii) Haverson teaches converting disparate formats into a web-compatible format that is selectable when a document is checked into the system. Haverson, however,

does not render the application's above-mentioned limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mark Fadok** whose telephone number is **571.272.6755**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Jeffrey A. Smith** can be reached on **571.272.6763**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

or faxed to:

571-273-8300

[Official communications; including

After Final communications labeled

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"Box AF"]

For general questions the receptionist can be reached at
571.272.3600

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Fadok
Primary Examiner